

**JULY  
2025**

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# Connecting Catholic Women!

## A Monthly Newsletter of the Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (MDCCW)

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) and your local parish Council (CCW)

Uniting Catholic Women throughout the Catholic Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin

### THE PEN

"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1

#### Building the Body of Christ

July is still the month of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. The feast of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus was originally on July 1, later was transferred to the 1st Sunday in July, and in 1969 was (sadly, my opinion) removed from the calendar because the Blood of Christ was included in three other feasts.

**Sacrament and Sacrifice:** Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist as a Sacrament - the Holy Eucharist is an outward sign in which we receive Jesus who shares His life of grace with us. *"In the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained."* Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1374

The Eucharist is a great mystery because during Mass the substance of the bread and wine become the substance of Jesus, while the appearances remain as bread and wine. We believe in Transubstantiation because Jesus unequivocally taught it and authorized his apostles to repeat it. In this Sacrament Jesus gives us His own Body broken for us on the cross and His Most Precious Blood poured out for us so that our sins may be forgiven.

The Eucharistic celebration is also a sacrifice because it is the re-presentation or re-living in an unbloody manner of Christ's Death on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter

See **THE PEN** continued on Page Three

### United Across the Diocese

#### MDCCW TREASURER

#### ELECTED for SECOND TERM!

At the 70th Annual MDCCW Convention/Day of Spirituality, Patty Spragg was reelected as MDCCW Treasurer for a 2nd term. Congratulations, Patty!

We are really happy to retain her knowledge and expertise for two more years. The other officers remain the same for a year. MDCCW now begins the search for candidates for the offices of President-elect and Secretary. These nominees will be up for election at the 71st Annual Conference in June 2026. This is where you will shine!

Come join us as we explore the many ways of being a Catholic Woman in the Diocese of Madison.

### United in Voice with NCCW

From Fr. Tom Washburn, Spiritual Advisor to the National Council of Catholic Women.

#### Pentecost and the Power Within

*A reflection of Pentecost celebrated June 8th and its ever-present reality.*

Women were at the Heart of Pentecost. Mary was there. The same woman who said yes to God at the Annunciation was present at the birth of the Church. (Acts 1:14).

She is the model of Spirit-filled femininity - receptive, courageous, and completely surrendered to God's plan. Her presence reminds us that women were never on the sidelines of salvation history. Women have always been essential to God's work in the world. So what does Pentecost mean today for Catholic women?

Let me suggest a few things....

Continue '**PENTECOST'S POWER**' on Page 5

**VOICE of the SAINTS**

Feasts, Memorials and Solemnities

- St. Junipero Serra, 7-1
- ST. THOMAS, 7-3
- St. Elizabeth of Portugal, 7-5
- St. Augustine Zhao Rong, 7-9
- ST. BENEDICT, Abbot, 7-11
- ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA, 7-14
- ST. BONAVENTURE, 7-15
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 7-16
- St. Camillus de Lellis, 7-18
- St. Lawrence of Brindisi, 7-21
- ST. MARY MAGDALENE, 7-22
- St. Bridget, 7-23
- ST. JAMES, 7-25
- STS. JOACHIM and ANNE, 7-26
- STS. MARTHA, MARY, and LAZARUS, 7-29
- ST. IGNATIUS of LOYOLA, 7-31



**MEMBERSHIP**

**AFFILIATIONS:**

ALL PARISH women are council women if your pastorate CCW pays dues.

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

Available to individual Catholic women in parishes without MDCCW & NCCW affiliation to receive full benefits and resources.

**CONTACT MDCCW:**

www.mdccw.com

**CONTACT NCCW:**

3211 4th St. NE, Suite #338  
Washington, DC 20017  
www.nccw.org

**LEADERSHIP**

Inspiration for Local Councils by Sue Barker, MDCCW Leadership Commission Chair

Summertime is always busy and this one is no exception. Church festivals are all around us and your own parish may be holding one. These parish festivals are often the main fund raisers for your parish, so don't be afraid to participate in or attend one near you. Hopefully you included the MDCCW Convention on June 28th in your plans. This yearly event was very well attended and a great time was had by all! Bishop Hying performed the mass and in addition to a silent auction, raffle and business meeting, our main speaker, Vallimar Jansen was outstanding!

Will you be attending the NCCW Convention August 19th to the 23rd in Orlando? As always, these 5 days will be filled with visits to local tourist sites, presentations by all NCCW Commissions, a General Business meeting, banquets, and the infamous "Purse Auction"! If you have never attended, you are in for a treat. If you have been there before, you will re-acquaint yourself with friends you met in the past.

Our priests will be taking up their new assignments in the diocese July 1st. Please introduce your group as soon as you can, letting them know about CCW and how we can help each other serving our church.

**DAY of SPIRITUALITY!**

Recap of the 70th Annual MDCCW Convention, June 28th on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

With a theme of Renewing Our Hope in Christ, the **175** women attending shared an experience of a lifetime as Vallimar Jansen skillfully weaved patterns of love and hope in our minds and hearts through music, exhortation, storytelling, and times of reflection. We have all been challenged to build on her message by sharing our

Continue DAY of SPIRITUALITY on Page Four

**LEADERSHIP**

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

A Day to Nurture your Spirit and Grow your Christian Community!



**Saturday, July 19, 2025 9am - 3pm**  
**At. Bronislava Parish, Plover, WI**

Refresh and nurture your spirit, revive your sense of fun, add a bit of prayer as you spend an enlightening day in the company of women from around the state who seek to grow their Christian Community! Included for your \$30 fee: continental breakfast, lunch and multiple presentations and discussions! The LTD Registration Form is on page 5 and has all the details!

by Coreen Marklein of NCCW's Leadership Team

**SPIRITUALITY**

**Faith Finds a Home at Home**

"Do me a favor and just vacuum up the big chunks, okay?" This is a request I've uttered to my family members on more than one occasion, especially during the flurry of cleaning that inevitably occurs right before company comes to our household. This saying coined by my college dorm-mate years ago always makes me smile. It reminds me that now is a great time for cleaning, inside and out, those nooks and crannies in our houses and in our hearts. What are the "big chunks" we can remove, the clutter in our hearts that prevent us from focusing on a clear path to Our Lord? Let's vacuum up that clutter for good, not just for special occasions, but on a regular basis, so that Our Lord can rest with us at all times in the clean and quiet places of our hearts.



**By Julianne Nornberg**

Contributor to the Catholic Herald and member of Holy Cross Parish (formerly Pastorate 19)

**THE PEN** CONTINUED from Page One



Pray for our nation to remain One Nation Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All

Sunday. By means of signs, symbols, and prayers, we share in Christ's passion, death, and Resurrection made really present for us. In this sacrifice Jesus becomes present on the altar, offering Himself to the Father through the ministry of the priest.

**Prepare Properly to Receive Holy Communion:** We have tarnished God's image within our souls through acts of disobedience, selfishness, impurity, injustice, and other sins. Hence, before we receive Holy Communion, we always need repentance; and we need Sacramental confession of grave sins. We should remember the warning given by St. Paul: *'Whoever, therefore, eats the Bread or drinks the Cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner... eat and drink judgment against themselves.'* 1 Cor 11:27-29

Receive Holy Communion with fervent love and respect - not merely as a matter of routine. Outward piety towards the Eucharist cannot coexist with rudeness, unkindness, slander, cruelty, gossip, or any other breach of charity toward our brothers and sisters. Let us often repeat St. Thomas Aquinas' prayer of devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: *'O Sacrament most holy! O Sacrament Divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!'*

*Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.*

In His Mercy and Her Love,

**Carol Rogers**

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President

**Prayer Intentions**

for the Month of July by Pope Francis

**'For Formation in Discernment'**

"Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel."



**LAVENDER at PRAYER?**

July holds the Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. The costly oil which Mary of Bethany chose to anoint Jesus (*Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9. and John 12:1-8*) was described as 'spikenard or nard'. The sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet with ointment from an alabaster jar (*Luke 7:36-50*) was the same extravagant oil extracted from LAVENDER. Extracting the precious oil was a time-consuming and complicated process; symbolic of purity, devotion, and preciousness. Jesus referred to it as the oil used for anointing Him for burial. The scent of lavender is abundant today and plentifully grown at local farms. Add this fragrance to your prayer time!

**SERVICE: Pick-A-THEME**

**THEME for a PASTORAL CALENDAR:**

Pentecost: Fundraise for sacramental supplies

**THEME for JULY:**

CHRISTMAS IN JULY! Gear up for the BOX of JOY project to be held across the Diocese!

Boxes for your gifts are now available from Linda Ripp (linmdccw@gmail.com)

All Diocesan Boxes of Joy can be dropped off in Martinsville at the St. Martin of Tours school building - dates forthcoming in next issues of The PEN.



**THEME Based on 'BE-ATTITUDES':**

Feed The Hungry - Hold a picnic to welcome new members to the church with admission of food donations.

**THEME Based on NCCW-Endorsed Projects:**

Refugee awareness and social concerns are clearly stated by Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities. Know all the issues facing today's uncertain times and the immediate needs for refugees and immigrants - the act!

## EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

### **Saturday & Sunday, July 27 & 28: St. Dennis Church Summer Festival**

8:30am-11pm Saturday and 11:30am-5pm Sunday 5K Run & Kids' Fun Run, kids' games, bake sale, bingo and \$10,000 raffle drawing. Live music and food. 413 Dempsey Road, Madison

### **Epiphany Parish Mega Rummage Sale at Sacred Hearts School & Garage,**

**Thursday - Saturday, July 31-Aug. 2.** Held at 219 & 221 Columbus Street, Sun Prairie. Three days of treasure hunting at this enormous Rummage Sale. See [epiphanyparishwi.org/rummage-sale](http://epiphanyparishwi.org/rummage-sale). Call (608) 837-7381 for more information.

### **Sat. July 19th**

REGISTER NOW for NCCW's Leadership Training Workshop! Held at St. Bronislava Parish, Plover, WI, you will learn leadership skills geared toward Council Women! Coreen Marklein & Jody Watermann will lead this LTD Program. See the Registration Form on page 5.

### **Aug 19-23,**

NCCW Convention  
**BELIEVE IN THE EUCHARIST**  
Orlando, FL  
[www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

## DAY of SPIRITUALITY

*Continued from Page Two*

personal stories of faith development to encourage others to grow closer to Jesus.

It is always an honor to welcome Bishop Hying's participation at the Conference. He celebrated Mass, with concelebrants Fr. Scott Jablonski, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, and Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt, MDCCW Spiritual Advisor and assisted by Deacon Norbert Brunner. The day brought women from all over the diocese and beyond together in community; 68 of them were 1st time attendees at an MDCCW Annual Conference. The youngest of the 1st timers at each table were awarded the floral centerpiece. The youngest of all at the conference was Elizabeth Weber from Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, who received the Alice Krystowiak Award, a Madonna statue, to remember this event and encourage her to return for many years.

For the first time the Conference Program included a page of 22 honoraria and memorials. Friends, family, and groups celebrated loved ones, living and deceased, who brought meaning to the lives of the donors. Reading these tributes brought smiles to many participants. Individuals and groups sponsored various aspects of the Conference and provided services that made the day a success, see pages 26-28 of the Program Booklet. MDCCW is grateful to all who contributed through time, talent, and tithes.

The Offertory collection at Mass was given to the St. Bernard of Clairvaux Cathedral renovation project from women of the diocese who generously contributed \$1,874. The Bucket Raffle proceeds of \$972 were equally divided between three pro-life organizations, Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County, the Women's Care Center in Madison and Clarity Clinic in Platteville. Proceeds of the Silent Auction and Uncle Phill's Mustard fundraiser will be used to fund future MDCCW initiatives.

Where do we go from here? Ladies, please continue to tell your stories of faith. What we might consider to be ordinary life and not a "story" might just be the impetus that some listener needs to Renew a personal Hope in Christ. Share your hearts.

*Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.*

In His Mercy and Her Love,

**Carol Rogers**

Madison Diocesan Council of Catholic Women President



Installation of MDCCW Officers at The 70th Annual Convention held at St. Francis Xavier (L-R) Carol Rogers President, Carolyn Zentner and Jane Grinde Co-Presidents Elect, Marie Fleisner Secretary, and Patty Spragg Treasurer

Have an EVENT or ACTIVITY that you wish to see in The Pen? Forward request 3 weeks before the first of the month you wish to see your listing to: Carol Rogers [carrogmdccw@gmail.com](mailto:carrogmdccw@gmail.com) with subject line: 'Newsletter Event'.



- 1. Be open to the Spirit's gifts.**
- 2. Embrace boldness in faith.**
- 3. Cultivate unity and community.**
- 4. Pray with expectation.**
- 5. Carry the Church into the world.** You are not just a member of the Church - you part of its mission. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16) Whether in motherhood, ministry, career, or creative work, you are called to carry Christ into the world with gentleness, strength, and joy.

My dear sisters, Pentecost is not a past event to remember, but a present reality to live. The same Spirit that filled Mary and the Apostles now lives in you.

Let him speak through your compassion, act through your service, and shine through your presence. The Church was born through the Spirit, and she is alive today through women like you - faithful, fearless, and on fire for God.

Peace, love, and prayers,

*Fr. Tom Washburn*- National Spiritual Advisor

*Fr. Tom writes a reflection for the President's Pen in the monthly noteworthy communication from the National Council of Catholic Women. As an Independent Member, you also can receive this vital national Council news. See page 2 for membership opportunities!*

*This article is an excerpt from the CatholicWoman Magazine. See the full article in Vol. 51, No. 2.*



Calling  
All Women

LTD Day  
Saturday  
July 19

Registration  
Form

Join us for a day of nurturing ourselves in spirit, fun, prayer and enrichment to grow our Christian women's communities. This training is an NCCW custom designed program to meet the needs of our ladies' groups as identified by local leadership.

**Saturday, July 19, 2025, 9am - 3pm**  
**St. Bronislava Parish, 3200 Plover Road, Plover, WI**

\$30 per person includes continental breakfast, lunch and all printed materials.  
Please mail your payment to Jean Kelly, 800 Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, WI 53122.  
Checks made out to the Province of Milwaukee.

Questions? Contact Jane Schiszik [janeschise@hotmail.com](mailto:janeschise@hotmail.com) or Bridgette Adler [bridgetteadler@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetteadler@gmail.com)

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_